Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~A message broker~~ for managing subscription requests in a multicast messaging system comprising a plurality of publishers publishing information to a [[the]] broker and a plurality of subscribers subscribing to information received from one or more publishers, the apparatus ~~broker~~ comprising:

      ~~means for~~ a computer, wherein the computer comprises:

            a matching engine, wherein the matching engine receives ~~receiving~~ a subscription request pointing to topic information in which a [[the]] requesting subscriber is interested, the topic information defining a specific topic within a topic hierarchy, ~~means for parsing~~ parses the [[said]] subscription request to determine if the [[said]] request includes a wildcard, wherein a topic string received as the subscription request is parsed into a prefix and a remainder, wherein the prefix comprises everything in the topic string preceding the wildcard, locates a node in the topic tree defined by the prefix, wherein the node represents a topic immediately preceding the wildcard, and ~~means, responsive to determining that the [[said]] request does include a wildcard, for instructions~~ instructs the requesting subscriber to listen on a multicast address associated with the topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes the [[said]] wildcard by associating the subscriber with the node in the topic tree, wherein the node is defined by the prefix.

2.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus [[message broker]] of claim 1 comprising:

      means for assigning the multicast address to the topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes the wildcard ~~said preceding topic~~.

3.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus [[message broker]] of claim 2, wherein the multicast address for the topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes the wildcard [[preceding topic]] is inherited from parent topic information

4.   (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for managing subscription requests in a multicast messaging system, the messaging system comprising a plurality of publishers publishing information to a broker and a plurality of subscribers subscribing to information received from one or more publishers, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a subscription request pointing to topic information in which a [[the]] requesting subscriber is interested, the topic information defining a specific topic within a topic hierarchy;

parsing the subscription [[said]] request to determine if the [[said]] request includes a wildcard, wherein a topic string received as the subscription request is parsed into a prefix and a remainder, wherein the prefix comprises everything in the topic string preceding the wildcard; ~~and~~

locating a node in the topic tree defined by the prefix, wherein the node represents a topic immediately preceding the wildcard; and

~~responsive to determining that said request does include a wildcard, for~~ instructing the requesting subscriber to listen on a multicast address associated with the topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes the [[said]] wildcard by associating the subscriber with the node in the topic tree, wherein the node is defined by the prefix.

5.   (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 4 comprising:

assigning the multicast address to the topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes the wildcard ~~said preceding topic~~.

6.   (Currently Amended) The computer implemented method of claim 5 wherein the multicast address for the topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes the wildcard ~~preceding topic~~ is inherited from parent topic information.

7.   (Currently Amended) A computer program embedded on a computer readable medium comprising program code adapted to perform, [[for]] managing subscription requests in a multicast messaging system when said program code is run on a computer, the messaging system comprising a plurality of publishers publishing information to a broker and a plurality of subscribers subscribing to information received from one or more publishers, the computer program comprising program code ~~means~~ adapted to perform, ~~when said program is run on a computer,~~ the steps of:

receiving a subscription request pointing to topic information in which a [[the]] requesting subscriber is interested, the topic information defining a specific topic within a topic hierarchy;

parsing the subscription [[said]] request to determine if the [[said]] request includes a wildcard, wherein a topic string received as the subscription request is parsed into a prefix and a remainder, wherein the prefix comprises everything in the topic string preceding the wildcard;

locating a node in the topic tree defined by the prefix, wherein the node represents a topic immediately preceding the wildcard; and

~~responsive to determining that said request does include a wildcard, for~~ instructing the requesting subscriber to listen on a multicast address associated with the topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes the [[said]] wildcard <u>by associating the subscriber with the node in the topic tree, wherein the node is defined by the prefix</u> .

8.   (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 7, wherein the program code means is also adapted to perform the following step when said program is run on a computer:

     assigning the multicast address to <u>the topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes the wildcard</u> ~~said preceding topic~~.

9.   (Currently Amended) The computer program of claim 8, wherein the multicast address for the <u>topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes the wildcard</u> ~~preceding topic~~ is inherited from parent topic information.

10.   (Currently Amended) <u>A data processing system for managing</u> a multicast messaging system for managing subscription requests, the data processing system comprising:

     a bus;

     a memory connected to the bus, wherein the memory includes computer program code; and

     a processor coupled to the bus, wherein the processor executes the computer program code to a message broker; a plurality of publishers publishing information to the <u>message</u> broker;

     a plurality of subscribers subscribing to information received from one or more publishers, the subscribers comprising:

     ~~means for registering subscription requests with the broker,~~ the <u>message</u> broker<u>, the message broker</u> comprising:

          <u>a matching engine, wherein the matching engine receives</u> ~~means for receiving~~ a subscription request pointing to topic information in which <u>a</u> [[the]] requesting subscriber is interested, the topic information defining a specific topic within a topic hierarchy;

          <u>a parser, wherein the parser parses</u> ~~means for parsing~~ the [[said]] <u>subscription</u> request to determine if <u>the</u> [[said]] request includes a wildcard, <u>wherein a topic string received as the [[said]] subscription request is parsed into a prefix and a remainder, wherein the prefix comprises everything in the topic string preceding the wildcard and, wherein the parser locates a node in the topic tree defined in the prefix, wherein the node represents a topic immediately preceding the wildcard;</u> and

~~means, responsive to determining that said request does include a wildcard~~, <u>an instructor, wherein the instructor instructs</u> the requesting subscriber to listen on a multicast address associated with the topic in the topic hierarchy which precedes <u>the</u> [[said]] wildcard <u>by associating the subscriber with the node in the topic tree, wherein the node is defined by the prefix</u>.